GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1163
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2005
NEW RAILWAY LINES THROUGH FOREST AREAS
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of such new railway line projects as cleared by the Government during the last three years i.e., from 2002 to 2005 and having impact on Fauna and Flora of prime forests in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of new railway lines that have been rejected by the Government during the above period on the grounds of loss of forests and conservation of biodiversity, State-wise;

(c) whether fresh proposals have been sought by the Union Government from certain States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) During the last three years, 43 rail line projects have been granted forestry clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 by the Central Government. All these projects involve felling of trees for construction of rail line. Specifically, one proposal for construction of broad gauge rail line from Koderma to Ranchi in Jharkhand, involving 235.88 ha of forest land, passes through an elephant corridor.

(b) to (d) During the last three years, only one proposal regarding construction of Hubli Ankola railway line in Karnataka involving 965.00 ha of forest land was rejected by the Central Government on the grounds of involvement of large chunk of dense forest and eco-fragile area of Western Ghats. The State Government has been asked on 04.11.2004, to submit revised proposal.